United Nations A/70/443

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 October 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 160
Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Cash Position of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali as at 9 October 2015

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/289 A of 19 June 2015, wherein the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in a total amount not exceeding $80,336,300 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and requested the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to report upon the cash position of the Mission during the main part of its seventieth session.

Preliminary results for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 indicate cumulative expenditure of $906,199,000 for the maintenance of the Mission, as compared to approved resources of $911,038,000 (including the authority to enter into commitments), representing marginal underutilization of $4,839,000 (or 0.5 per cent). In this context, the commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly has been substantially utilized. Subject to finalization, actual expenditure will be addressed in the performance report for MINUSMA for the same period, to be presented to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed seventieth session.

The General Assembly is requested to take note of the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, by its resolution 2164 (2014) of 25 June 2014, extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) until 30 June 2015. By the same resolution, the Council requested that the Secretary-General take the necessary steps to enable MINUSMA to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible in the context of a new Force laydown, and called upon Member States to provide troops and police with adequate capabilities and equipment, including enablers, in order for MINUSMA to fulfil its mandate.

2. It will be recalled that in his note to the General Assembly on the financing arrangements for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/69/828), the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that when the approved budget for MINUSMA for the financial period 2014/15[1] was formulated, no provision was made for the new Force laydown or the expansion of its presence in the north of Mali beyond key population centres and the associated infrastructure investments (A/69/828, para. 5).

3. To enable the Mission to support an action plan to counter improvised explosive devices, improve Force protection capabilities and enhance the national capacity of the Malian defence and security forces to counter improvised explosive devices, and to expand and enhance the Mission's infrastructure network in the north of Mali, the Secretary-General requested that the General Assembly appropriate and assess the amount of $80,336,300 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 in addition to the amount of $830,701,700 already approved for the maintenance of the Mission for the same period under the terms of Assembly resolution 68/259 B (A/69/828, para. 8). This would provide an approved total of $911,038,000 for the maintenance of the Mission.

4. By its resolution 69/289, the General Assembly endorsed the view and recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/69/889, para. 10), namely that there was no need for an additional appropriation or assessment at that stage, and authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, for a total amount not exceeding $80,336,300 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Mission, in addition to the amount of $895,534,000[2] previously appropriated for the same period under the terms of its resolution 68/259 B.

5. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the cash position of the Mission under review and, on an exceptional basis, to report thereon during the main part of its seventieth session. The present report provides information on the cash position of MINUSMA as at 9 October 2015.

6. The Security Council, by its resolution 2227 (2015) of 29 June 2015 extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2016.

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[1] By its resolution 68/259 B of 30 June 2014, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for MINUSMA the amount of $895,534,000 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of $830,701,700 for the maintenance of the Mission, $53,752,200 for the support account for peacekeeping operations and $11,080,100 for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Those amounts have been assessed on Member States.

[2] Ibid.

II. Cash position of MINUSMA as at 9 October 2015

Financial performance for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

7. Details on actual expenditure for the financial period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 as compared to approved resources for the period will be included in the forthcoming performance report for MINUSMA, to be presented to the General Assembly at the second resumed part of its seventieth session. The performance report for MINUSMA is still under review, but preliminary figures for the financial period show total expenditure for the maintenance of the Mission at $906,199,000, against approved resources of $911,038,000, reflecting underutilization of $4,839,000, or 0.5 per cent. At the end of June 2015, $605,769,000 had been disbursed in payments, with $300,430,000 remaining in unliquidated obligations.

8. According to the preliminary unaudited financial statements for United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period 2014/15, as at 30 June 2015, cash, cash equivalents and investments amounted to $330,137,000, and cumulative assessments receivable from Member States totalled $30,728,000 (see table 1).

9. Assuming the Mission's proportionate share ($251,568,000) of the United Nations investment pool can be liquidated readily, it follows that cash, cash equivalents and investments would be adequate to meet the obligations of the Mission for the financial period 2014/15 as they fall due.

Table 1
MINUSMA: summary of financial performance for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Amount
Approved resources for maintenance of Mission	
Appropriation (resolution 68/259 B)	830 701.7
Commitment authority (resolution 69/289 A)	80 336.3
Subtotal (A)	**911 038.0**
Expenditure for 2014/15[a]	
Disbursements	(605 769.0)
Unliquidated obligations	(300 430.0)
Subtotal (B)	**(906 199.0)**
Net unutilized approved resources, A and B	**4 839.0**
Cash, cash equivalents and investments as at 30 June 2015[a,b,c]	**330 137.0**
Assessments receivable as at 30 June 2015	
Financial period 2012/13	3 620.4
Financial period 2013/14	4 145.1
Financial period 2014/15	22 962.5
Total	**30 728.0**
Unliquidated obligations (see B, expenditure for 2014/15)	**(300 430.0)**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table 1)

Notes:

[a] Based on the preliminary unaudited financial statements for the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

[b] Cash and cash equivalents, comprising cash at bank and on hand, and short-term, highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

[c] The United Nations Treasury invests funds pooled from United Nations Secretariat entities and other participating entities. The pooled funds are combined in two internally managed cash pools.

Projected cash flow from 9 October to 31 December 2015

10. As at 9 October 2015, cash on hand for the Mission amounted to $540,400,000, while the three-month operating reserve stood at $167,402,100, resulting in a cash balance of $372,997,900. It is estimated that a total of $52,953,000 will be required to cover the cost of reimbursement payments to contributing Governments for the services rendered by their contingents in MINUSMA with respect to troops and formed police personnel for the months of September and October 2015 ($29,454,000) and contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment certified for the first quarter of the financial period 2015/16 ($23,499,000), at the next scheduled quarterly payments in December 2015. On the basis of the current cash position, it is envisaged that the Mission will have sufficient cash reserves for payments to the end of December 2015 (see table 2).

Table 2

Summary of projected cash flow from 9 October to 31 December 2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Projected expenditure to 31 December 2015	*Total*
Available cash		
Cash on hand as at 9 October 2015		540 400.0
Less three-month operating reserve		(167 402.1)
Subtotal		**372 997.9**
Estimated troop and formed police unit payments, contingent-owned equipment reimbursement and operating costs		
Troop and formed police unit payments (December 2015)	(29 454.0)	
Contingent-owned equipment reimbursements (December 2015)	(23 499.0)	
Operating costs (October-December 2015)	(167 402.1)	
Subtotal		**(220 355.1)**
Net balance as at 31 December 2015		**152 642.8**

11. Table 2 does not reflect the following estimated cash flows for the period 9 October 2015 to 31 December 2015: (a) cash outflows from the liquidation of outstanding obligations for the 2014/15 financial period, which amounted to $171,138,200 as at 9 October 2015; and (b) cash inflows from the pending receipt of outstanding assessments upon Member States, which amounted to $104,669,400 as at 9 October 2015.

Projected cash flows from 9 October 2015 to 30 June 2016

12. As at 9 October 2015, the total assessed on Member States for the maintenance and operation of the Mission since its inception amounted to $2,029,875,000, while contributions received totalled $1,925,205,600, resulting in unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSMA in the amount of $104,669,400, or 5.2 per cent of the total amount assessed on Member States.

13. It will be recalled that under the terms of General Assembly resolution 69/289 B, the appropriation for the financial period 2015/16 is to be assessed upon Member States in two equal tranches: 1 July to 31 December 2015 ($484,506,950) and 1 January to 30 June 2016 ($484,506,950). The first tranche took effect in July 2015. The second tranche, which is subject to the decision of the General Assembly on the applicable scale of assessment for United Nations peacekeeping operations for the year 2016, is anticipated at the end of 2015.

14. An analysis of projected cash flows for MINUSMA from 9 October 2015 to 30 June 2016 is set out in table 3 below.

Table 3
Summary of projected cash flows from 9 October 2015 to 30 June 2016
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Projected expenditure to 30 June 2016	*Total*
Available cash		
Cash on hand as at 9 October 2015		540 400.0
Less three-month operating reserve		(167 402.1)
Subtotal		**372 997.9**
Estimated troop and formed police unit payments, contingent-owned equipment reimbursements and operating costs		
December 2015	(52 953.0)	
March 2016	(67 680.0)	
June 2016	(82 407.0)	
Operating costs (October 2015-June 2016)	(502 206.2)	
Subtotal		**(705 246.2)**
Total cash requirements to 30 June 2016		**(332 248.3)**
Assessments receivable		
Financial period 2012/13		3 576.3
Financial period 2013/14		4 114.5
Financial period 2014/15		21 986.9
Financial period 2015/16 — tranche 1		74 991.7
Subtotal		**104 669.4**
Pending assessments[a]		
Financial period 2015/16 — tranche 2 (January 2016)		484 507.0
Subtotal		**484 507.0**
Total potential cash inflows to 30 June 2016 (tranches 1 and 2)		**589 176.4**

(Footnote on following page)

(Footnote to table 3)

Note:

[a] Pending approval by the General Assembly of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations for the year 2016.

15. The projected cash flows do not reflect outflows from the settlement of outstanding obligations from the 2014/15 financial period, which amounted to $171,138,200 on 9 October 2015. As indicated in table 3, cash sufficiency will be sensitive to the timely receipt of contributions for the second tranche of assessments upon Member States in respect of MINUSMA for the 2015/16 financial period.

III. Trend in cash position of MINUSMA

16. While the payment of assessed contributions from Member States resulted in a significant improvement in the cash position of MINUSMA during the second quarter of the 2014/15 financial period (see annex), a steady decline in its relative cash position in the magnitude of 68.2 per cent occurred during the period from December 2014 to July 2015. The decline in the Mission's cash position reflected the impact of reimbursement payments to the Governments of troop- and police-contributing countries in the amount of $183,801,800, consisting of $120,706,100 for troop and formed police personnel costs in March, June and September 2015 for services rendered up to 31 August 2015 and $63,095,700 for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment for claims certified up to 30 June 2015. Also included were the costs associated with the operational requirements of the Mission, particularly regarding enhancements of its infrastructure and information technology network as well as mine detection and mine-clearing services.

17. In the light of the foregoing, and assuming timely receipt of outstanding and future assessed contributions for the 2015/16 financial period, it is envisaged that the Mission will have sufficient flexibility in the management of its Special Account to meet its cash liabilities until 30 June 2016. As mentioned previously in the present report, the commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in relation to MINUSMA has been utilized and will require appropriations and assessments on Member States. The issue will be addressed in the context of the performance report of MINUSMA for the 2014/15 financial period, to be considered by the Assembly during the second resumed part of its seventieth session.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

18. **The General Assembly is requested to take note of the present report.**

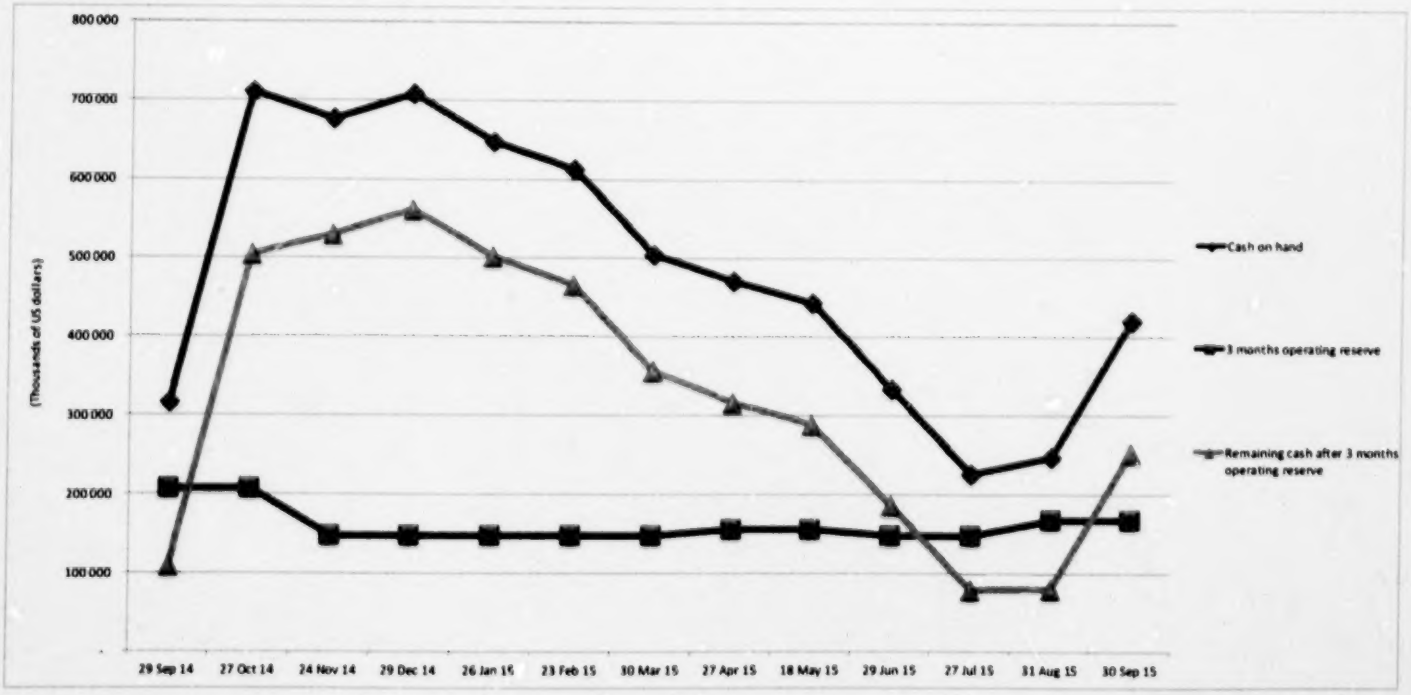
Annex

MINUSMA: trend in cash position, 30 September 2014-30 September 2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	29 Sep 14	*27 Oct 14*	*24 Nov 14*	*29 Dec 14*	*26 Jan 15*	*23 Feb 15*	*30 Mar 15*	*27 Apr 15*	*18 May 15*	*29 Jun 15*	*27 Jul 15*	*31 Aug 15*	*30 Sep 15*
Cash on hand	316 200.0	711 300.0	677 000.0	708 500.0	648 100.0	612 800.0	503 800.0	471 100.0	443 200.0	333 300.0	225 500.0	246 500.0	419 700.0
3 months operating reserve[a]	207 675.4	207 675.4	147 285.4	147 285.4	147 285.4	147 285.4	147 285.4	154 948.4	154 948.4	147 285.4	147 285.4	167 402.1	167 402.1
Remaining cash after 3 months operating reserve[b]	108 524.6	503 624.6	529 714.6	561 214.6	500 814.6	465 514.6	356 514.6	316 151.6	288 251.6	186 014.6	78 214.6	79 097.9	252 297.9

[a] Excludes reimbursements for troop- and police-contributing countries.
[b] The amount of cash available allows for the reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries.



United Nations A/70/444

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 October 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 113 (e)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 26 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of Pakistan to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations for the term 2016-2018, elections for which will be held on 28 October 2015 in New York.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Pakistan has the further honour to request the Office of the President of the General Assembly to kindly circulate this note and its annex for consideration by Member States. The annex details the voluntary pledges of Pakistan pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, which reflect the commitment of Pakistan and highlight the progress made by the country in the area of human rights. These pledges were also circulated among Member States earlier by the Mission through its note dated 19 August 2015.

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Annex

Candidature of Pakistan to the Human Rights Council, 2016-2018

Contributions, voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. As a founding member of the Human Rights Council, Pakistan has decided to present its candidature for re-election to the Council for the term 2016-2018 against one of the five seats reserved for the Asia-Pacific Group. The election will take place in October 2015, during the seventieth session of the General Assembly, in New York.

2. Pakistan served for two consecutive terms in the Council, from 2006 to 2011. It was re-elected to the Council for the current term (2013-2015). Pakistan considers that its continued presence in the Council would enable it to further its contribution to the collective efforts to help consolidate the universal human rights agenda and to advance its endeavours for the promotion and protection of human rights at the national and international level.

3. Following is a brief account of Pakistan's contributions, voluntary pledges and commitments in the field of human rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251.

Contribution for the promotion and protection of human rights and progress on past pledges

4. Pakistan is strongly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. In pursuance of its deep respect for human rights principles and norms and on the basis of the experience and expertise acquired from its membership in the Council, Pakistan looks forward to contributing further by engaging proactively with the Council, its entire machinery, processes and initiatives, as well as with the members of the international community, the United Nations agencies and members of civil society.

5. Pakistan considers human rights as the bedrock for peace and democracy at home and abroad. It therefore accords high priority to advancing the mutually reinforcing objectives of development, human rights and democracy. We have made considerable progress in the field of human rights despite the challenges posed by terrorism, of which Pakistan is the biggest victim, as terrorism has caused more than 60,000 deaths in the country in the last decade and losses of hundreds of billions of dollars to the economy.

6. Pakistan has ratified and continues to implement seven core international human rights treaties. The following four such treaties and additional protocol have been ratified in recent years:

(a) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) (ratified on 17 April 2008);

(b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) (ratified on 23 June 2010);

(c) Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) (ratified on 23 June 2010);

(d) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) (ratified on 5 July 2011);

(e) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (ratified on 5 July 2011).

7. We are now focused on the implementation of these instruments at the grass-roots level. To achieve this purpose, the Government has established Treaty Implementation Cells (December 2014) in all provinces to oversee compliance with these international instruments.

8. In fulfilment of its pledge, Pakistan has established the National Commission on Human Rights. The Commission has been functioning since 19 May 2015. It has a wide-ranging mandate encompassing all aspects of human rights, including dealing with the rights of women, children and other vulnerable segments of the society and powers to take up complaints regarding human rights violations. The establishment of the Commission will go a long way in strengthening human rights in Pakistan.

9. Another landmark achievement in the field of human rights is the National Commission on Minorities, which was made fully functional in 2014. The Commission can address all aspects of minorities' rights in Pakistan.

10. The National Commission on the Status of Women, established as a statutory body in July 2000, has been further strengthened and made more autonomous in 2011. In the last few years, the Commission has been consolidated in terms of providing solid advice and guidance to the Government to enable it to fulfil its national and international obligations with regard to women's rights, including through establishing provincial Commissions.

11. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has also set up a human rights cell, which functions under the direct supervision of the Chief Justice and addresses cases requiring urgent relief.

12. Significant work has been done on legislative reform in recent years in the country. Reforms introducing new legislation or addressing gaps in existing legislation have been passed by the Parliament. Most prominent in this regard is pro-women legislation, including the following:

(a) Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2010), which provides protection to women from sexual harassment in the workplace while describing the relevant complaint mechanism, enquiry procedure and penalties. It also lays down a code of conduct for the workplace;

(b) Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2010, which lays down a punishment of three years along with a fine of 500,000 rupees for the offence of sexual harassment;

(c) Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act (2011), which aims to prohibit forced marriages, marriages with Quran, depriving a female of inheritance and giving away women or girls in *vani* or *swara*;

(d) Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2011 (Prevention of Acid Crimes Incidents) makes the act of acid throwing an offence punishable by life imprisonment and a fine of 1 million rupees;

(e) Women in Distress and Detention Fund (2011) extends financial and legal assistance to women who are in jail due to various allegations made against them and who are faced with extreme hardship.

13. The Government has taken steps to prevent the possible misuse or abuse of the blasphemy law. In 2004, it was made compulsory that no police officer below the level of Superintendent of Police investigate charges related to blasphemy.

14. Pakistan is also working closely with special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers visited Pakistan from 19 to 29 May 2012, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from 10 to 12 September 2012, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism from 11 to 13 March 2013. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also visited Pakistan from 4 to 8 June 2012. These visits have been useful for us in terms of feedback and are reflective of our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. The visits were part of our undertaking to enhance our cooperation in the field of human rights.

15. Given the importance it attaches to the right to development, the Government has taken steps to mainstream the right to development in the Vision 2025 plan, which is a clear manifestation of this priority.

16. Vision 2025 will enhance the effectiveness of available social protection schemes and also cover areas such as employment creation, the eradication of poverty and other forms of social protection. For this purpose, the Benazir Income Support Programme is already extending financial support for children in schools. The scope and size of such schemes will be further extended through Vision 2025.

17. Vision 2025 also offers an opportunity to promote and advance the key goal of women's empowerment. A hallmark program, the Gender Reform Action Plan (2012), which is part of the Public Sector Development Programme, is a key deliverable in this regard. It undertakes to mainstream gender at all levels of governance structure. Key reform areas include: (a) institutional restructuring; (b) policies and fiscal reforms; (c) women's employment in the public sector; and (d) women's political participation.

Voluntary pledges and commitments

A. At the national level

18. In order to further consolidate the progress made during recent years as well as to overcome the challenges posed by extremism and terrorism, Pakistan will take bold measures in both policy and legal reform and, where necessary, ensure effective enforcement of its existing legislation/policy on human rights. Overall, we will further strengthen our holistic approach, with a primary focus on future interventions for women, children, minorities and disabled persons.

19. We therefore pledge to make utmost efforts in this regard, including by considering the following:

(a) Formulating a national plan of action on human rights that, besides setting out our strategic direction and key priorities, will align our interventions with our national and international obligations;

(b) Constituting a joint committee consisting of national and provincial stakeholders that will, in consultation with civil society, identify gaps and review discriminatory legislation and the enforcement of existing legislation;

(c) Making our national human rights institutions more autonomous and fully operational so as to ensure their effective functioning;

(d) Working for speedy justice for victims of human rights violations through the strengthening of the human and technical resources available to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors and capacity-building for other relevant stakeholders, including the Treaty Implementation Cells;

(e) Designing and launching a public awareness campaign on the various aspects of the human rights of women, children, minorities and other groups;

(f) Undertaking and implementing the following measures in respect of women:

(i) Passing legislation on the following:

- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill (2013)
- Christian Marriages Amendment Bill 2014
- Divorce Amendment Bill 2014 (Christian)
- Anti-Rape law (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill 2014 to review and improve existing legislation
- Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2014

(ii) Formulating national policy guidelines on gender-based violence;

(iii) Establishing new crisis centres for women and strengthening/standardizing existing centres/services in collaboration with civil society organizations to provide rehabilitation services for victims and survivors of violence;

(iv) Encouraging women's participation in the workforce under Vision 2025 in order to fully utilize the work potential of half of Pakistan's population;

(v) Establishing toll-free helplines in all provinces to receive complaints and provide information as well as link complaints to relevant institutions, including offices of ombudspersons;

(g) Undertaking the following measures in respect of children:

(i) Passing legislation on the following:

a. The establishment of a national commission on the rights of children;

b. The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

c. The review and implementation of Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (2000) through the Juvenile Justice System Bill (2015);

(ii) Progressively fully eliminating the problem of child labour through a phased and multisectoral strategy;

(iii) Remaining committed to polio eradication and continuing to combat it with resilience, renewed determination and political will;

(iv) Making the utmost efforts to ensure implementation of Article 25 A of the Constitution regarding free education for children between 5 and 16 years of age;

(h) Undertaking the following measures in respect of minorities:

(i) Ensuring the effective functioning of the National Commission for Minorities through the allocation of adequate resources;

(ii) Establishing an interministerial review committee to discuss issues concerning violations of the human rights of minorities and to promote interfaith harmony;

(iii) Strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of interfaith harmony committees established at the district level;

(iv) Consolidating ongoing efforts to enhance the socioeconomic position of members of minority communities, including through an increase in funds for and the number of scholarships; the provision of financial assistance to vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans and the disabled; and the establishment of a 5 per cent quota reserved for minorities in the National Income Support Programme and other social safety nets;

(v) Ensuring an effective enforcement of Sections 99-A and 295-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, which are related to religious hatred that leads to imminent violence, including hate speech;

(vi) Making efforts to establish a fund for free legal aid to the victims of human rights violations;

(vii) Mainstreaming human rights in development planning by incorporating cross-cutting issues of health, education, social planning in development planning under Vision 2025 and making efforts for adequate budgetary and resource allocations for the promotion and protection of human rights and gender initiatives in the Public Sector Development Programme.

B. At the international level

20. Pakistan greatly values international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other treaty and non-treaty human rights documents. In this spirit, Pakistan will continue to further strengthen its contribution to the global promotion of human rights and its positive engagement with the Human Rights Council along the following lines:

(a) As one of the Council's founding members, Pakistan will continue to strive to make the Council a forum for genuine dialogue and cooperation on the basis of the principles of non-discrimination and impartiality, as reflected in the institution-building package contained in the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1;

(b) Pakistan actively participated in the establishment of various mechanisms of the Council and its review in 2011 and will continue to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of methods of work of the Council and its various mechanisms;

(c) We will continue to play an active role in the Council with a view to strengthening this body, which should promote dialogue, cooperation, capacity-building and technical assistance for the protection and promotion of human rights with due regard to the historic, cultural and religious values of member States and their specific socioeconomic conditions;

(d) We will continue to promote constructive engagement, dialogue and cooperation with the concerned States in addressing situations of concern before the Council;

(e) We consider the universal periodic review a unique cooperative mechanism to identify human rights challenges and make tangible recommendations in a non-politicized manner. Pakistan constructively participated in its second universal periodic review in October 2012. We will continue to make efforts to further strengthen our own participation as well as engage with the review mechanism by making action-oriented and useful recommendations to other member States;

(f) Pakistan has had the honour to serve as the coordinator of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) working group on human rights and humanitarian affairs in Geneva for many years. Pakistan has endeavoured to build bridges and help overcome the divergences and misunderstandings that have at times appeared in the approaches to some issues by the Islamic world and the west. To this end, Pakistan has been part of all major initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue and harmony among all societies and cultures and has sponsored resolutions in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council to promote interreligious and intercultural cooperation for peace. We pledge that we will continue to work with all Member States to maintain and strengthen this consensus;

(g) We have joined hands with the Philippines in presenting the annual General Assembly draft resolution on the "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace". The resolution has been consistently adopted by consensus, with the sponsorship of Member States of all major regions of the world. We pledge that we will work further to promote and strengthen interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

(h) Pakistan played an active and constructive role in achieving consensus on Human Rights Council resolution 16/18, entitled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief". This landmark resolution has since been adopted by consensus in the Council and the General Assembly. We remain committed to maintaining this strategic consensus and will work to promote the spirit of dialogue;

(i) Pakistan has been supportive of the role and activities of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations for promoting a culture of dialogue, tolerance and peaceful cooperation among the nations of the world. We will continue to support this initiative;

(j) Both as OIC coordinator and in its national capacity, Pakistan has maintained strong liaison and coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its endeavour to promote and advance the human rights agenda. We pledge to provide further support to the Office as it carries out its mandate;

(k) We will continue to strengthen cooperation and engagement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures, including by considering their visits to Pakistan.